

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 OMB-01 CIEP-03 COME-00

TRSE-00 DOTE-00 STR-08 XMB-07 OPIC-12 INT-08 SCI-06

DRC-01 /175 W

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R 151230Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5078

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL BELEM BY POUCH

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL SALVADOR BY POUCH

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL RECIFE BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 6144

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, BR, AR

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA VISIT: FOLLOW-UP COMMENT

REF: A. BRASILIA 5252

B. BRASILIA 5429

C. BRASILIA 5484

D. BRASILIA 5517

E. BRASILIA 5552

1. PRESS COMMENT FOLLOWING EHCEVERRIA'S DEPARTURE WAS
SOMEWHAT SPARSE AND LOW KEY, BUT GENERALLY POSITIVE
AND HOPEFUL THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS, AT LEAST COMMERCIAL,
WOULD RESULT. PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CITED
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FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AS CALLING RESULTS OF VISIT

"HIGHLY POSITIVE", SINGLING OUT TRANSPORT AGREEMENT, JOINT STATEMENT ON DEFENSE OF EXPORT PRICES, AND PRIVATE-SECTOR AGREEMENTS. INFLUENTIAL JORNAL DO BRASIL, IN EDITORIAL PRAISING BILATERAL COOPERATION AS STEPPING-STONE TO HEMISPHERIC INTEGRATION, SAID THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS (AND THE EXPORT-PRICE DEFENSE STATEMENT) "SHAPE OUT, IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF THESE COUNTRIES, A MODEL OF COOPERATION OUTSIDE OF ANY PRETENSIONS OF HEGEMONY."

2. AS REFLECTED IN FOREGOING, ANALYSIS GENERALLY CONTINUED THAT ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL ASPECTS DOMINATED VISIT. KNOWLEDGEABLE FOREIGN-AFFAIRS JOURNALIST FLAVIO SALLES, HOWEVER, (WHO DURING VISIT HAD PRIVATELY TOLD US IT LACKED POLITICAL CONTENT), SUBSEQUENTLY RAN STORY CITING HIGH-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AS AGREEING THAT VISIT LOOKED COMMERCIAL AND NOT POLITICAL, BUT IN FACT TOWARD ITS END

TOOK ON POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. ACCORDING TO SALLES, THIS WAS REPRESENTED IN MORE RELAXED DIALOGUE THAT ENSUED WHEN ECHEVERRIA DEMONSTRATED FLEXIBILITY BY NOT RAISING CUBA AND BY "NOT INSISTING ON KEEPING, IN HIS SPEECH OF GREETING TO GEISEL, THE TWO PARAGRAPHS WHICH DID NOT PLEASE THE THINKING OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT" (REFS D AND C).

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ALSO POINTED OUT TO NEWSMEN THAT PHRASE IN JOINT DECLARATION REGARDING SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO EXPLOIT AND DEFEND NATURAL RESOURCES REPRESENTED MEXICAN SUPPORT FOR BRAZIL'S POSITION IN ITS DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA OVER PRIOR CONSULTATION ON USES OF SHARED WATERWAYS. WHILE THIS POINT GOT SOME PRESS PLAY, JORNAL DO BRASIL NOTED THAT JOINT MEXICAN-ARGENTINE DECLARATION INCLUDED PHRASE SUPPORTING ARGENTINE POSITION.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT EDITORIAL ONE ECHEVERRIA TRIP, ESTADO SAID THAT "UP TO A CERTAIN POINT IT COULD BE SAID THAT WHAT THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT WANTS IS, WITHIN THE SPIRIT THAT INFORMS THE 'DIALOGUE OF TLAZOLCO', TO SET LATIN AMERICA UP AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, ALSO IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD." ACKNOWLEDGING THAT BRAZILIAN-MEXICAN COMMERCIAL

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RELATIONS ARE LIKELY TO IMPROVE AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT, THE ESTADO ALSO DECLARED THAT "FROM THE COLD PERSPECTIVE OF NUMBERS, HOWEVER, EVEN IF INTENTION IS PUT INTO PRACTICE AND TRANSFORMED INTO REALITY, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR BILATERAL EXCHANGE TO BE ABLE TO MODIFY THE MELANCHOLY SITUATION IN WHICH LATIN-AMERICAN TRADE FINDS ITSELF." NOTING THAT SOME GOOD (E.G. WITH REGARD TO BASIC-PRODUCTS PRICES) COULD RESULT FROM

COOPERATION, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH THE WARNING THAT "AN ALTERATION IN BRAZILIAN CONDUCT IN THE PATH OF THE SPIRIT OF ILATELOLCO WOULD ONLY FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ECHEVERRIA BUT WOULD MAKE NO CONTRIBUTION TO SETTING SOUTH AMERICA AT EASE. THIS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND WHEN AMERICAN PROTECTIONISM MAY LEAD THE MOST DARING NATIONS TO RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF DIVISIVE POLICIES."

5. A KING OF SUB-ISSUE AROSE IN THE COLUMNS OF PRESTIGIOUS COMMENTATOR CARLOS CASTELLO BRANCO, WHO HAD BEEN ONE OF THOSE CRITICAL OF THE MEXICAN POLITICAL MODEL (REFTEL A). SUBSEQUENT TO ECHEVERRIA'S DEPARTURE, CASTELLO GAVE OVER ONE OF HIS DAILY COLUMNS TO A LETTER FROM HELIO JAGUARIBA, WHO HAD HOSTED ECHEVERRIA'S MEETING WITH INTELLECTUALS HERE. IN HIS LETTER JAGUARIBA ARGUED FOR A MORE SOPHISTICATED UNDERSTANDING OF MEXICO THAN THAT REPRESENTED BY ASSERTIONS EITHER THAT IT IS A PERFECT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY ENJOYING UNINTERRUPTED ECONOMIC PROGRESS, OR THAT IT IS A HYPOCRITICAL BUREAUCRATIC ONE-PARTY DICTATORSHIP MANIPULATING SOCIAL ASPIRATIONS AND REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANS AT THE SERVICE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OLIGARCHIES. STATING THAT MEXICO IS BOTH A GREAT SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND AN AUTHORITARIAN-BUREAUCRATIC REGIME, JAGUARIBA CONTINUED "MORE THAN THIS, HOWEVER, MEXICO IS A COUNTRY IN WHICH THERE DEVELOPED THE SHARPEST CRITICAL CONSCIENCE OF THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY EFFORT TO REFORM THE REGIME, ON THE PART OF THE REGIME ITSELF." JAGUARIBA WENT ON TO PRAISE ECHEVERRIA AS THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THIS ADMIRABLE EFFORT. THE FOLLOWING DAY, CASTELLO PUBLISHED, ALSO WITHOUT COMMENT, A LETTER SIGNED BY PEDRO CHAZARO MIMENDI (DESCRIBED AS MEXICAN FORMER NAVAL OFFICER AND INDEPENDENT WRITER) EXPRESSING "EFFUSIVE" PRAISE FOR CASTELLO'S

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ORIGINAL COMMENTS ON "THE REAL SITUATION WHICH AFFLICTS OUR COUNTRY AS A RESULT OF THE VORACIOUS OLIGARCHY WITH FALSE REVOLUTIONARY TITLE WHICH TOOK POWER OVER FOUR DECADES AGO, IN SPITE OF THE OPPOSITION (INCONFORMISMO) OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MEXICAN PEOPLE."

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6. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF VISIT. OTHER THAN A MARITIME ACCORD, THE CHEVERRIA VISIT RESULTED IN A LARGE BUT NOT EXCEPTIONAL ARRAY OF GENERAL AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION IN AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROVIDES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AND INFORMATION, GRANTING OF SCHOLARSHIPS BY BOTH COUNTRIES, EXCHANGE VISITS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMISSION TO MEET ANNUALLY TO EXAMINE PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION. THE EXCHANGE OF YOUNG TECHNICIANS WILL FOCUS ON THE AREAS OF IRRIGATION, ECOLOGY, BIO-CHEMISTRY, PETROCHEMICALS, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, METALLURGY, SOLID-STATE PHYSICS, ELECTRONICS, OCEANOGRAPHY, AID TO SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZE BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT BANKS, INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY
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SYSTEMS, REGISTRATION AND NEGOTIATION OF THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, INDUSTRIAL DATA AND QUALITY CONTROL. THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (BNDE) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO'S NACIONAL FINANCIERA TO IDENTIFY

PROJECTS FOR JOINT OR COMPLEMENTARY ACTION FOR PROJECTS IN SULPHUR, PHOSPHORUS, IRON ORE, TIN, NICKEL, FERTILIZERS, COPPER, SPONGE IRON AND CAPITAL GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY. THE PRESIDENTS ALSO AGREED ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PERSONNEL ON TOURISM.

THE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ITEM OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WAS THE SIGNING OF A MARITIME AGREEMENT WHICH IS AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE SOME OF THE OBSTACLES TO STIMULATING BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR A SHIPPING LINE RESERVING THE TRANSPORT OF CARGO BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO BRAZILIAN AND MEXICAN FLAGS ON A 50-50 BASIS. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES MAY CEDE UP TO 20 PERCENT (10 PERCENT EACH) OF TOTAL CARGO TO THIRD COUNTRY FLAGS WITH ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO THE OTHER PARTY AND WITH PREFERENCE TO FLAGS OF NAFTA COUNTRIES. TRANSPORT OF BULK CARGO, INCLUDING PETROLEUM, WILL REMAIN SUBJECT TO EACH COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC LEGISLATION.

A LAST-MINUTE ADDENDUM TO THE JOINT PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE WAS THE STATEMENT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ADOPT POLICIES IN DEFENSE OF PRICES FOR THEIR EXPORT PRODUCTS, SUCH AS COFFEE. THIS STATEMENT WAS REPORTEDLY INCLUDED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION AS A RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S STATEMENT ON CARTELS BEFORE THE JEC SUB-COMMITTEE (BRASILIA 5572).

7. POLITICAL ASPECTS. SUBSTANTIAL FOLLOW-THROUGH ON THE FOREGOING AGREEMENTS COULD OF COURSE HELP TO BRIDGE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT SEEMS LIKELY TO TAKE MORE THAN THAT, HOWEVER, TO OVERCOME THE GAP REPRESENTED BY THE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. WE ARE INCLINED TO DOUBT THAT THE VISIT DID MUCH TO DISPEL THE UNDERLYING RESENTMENTS HERE (REF A), NOR COULD IT REALLY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO; AND WHILE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND THE PRESS IN GENERAL APPEARED TO FIND THE VISIT

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AGREEABLE ENOUGH, IF HARDLY CAUSE FOR ENTHUSIASM, IT ALSO APPEARS THAT ECHEVERRIA MANAGED TO GENERATE REAL ANNOYANCE AMONG SOME INFLUENTIAL MILITARY OFFICERS (SEE IR 6 809 0503 74). IN ANY EVENT, WE SEE NO SIGN THAT HE MADE ANY HEADWAY HERE ON THE TWO PRINCIPAL "POLITICAL" THEMES ON HIS TRIP (I.E. THE READMISSION OF CUBA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORGANISM FOR CONSULTATION AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION).

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